

possible for her to be used by God in his purposes for his people. "Beauty is vain" if it makes one proud or selfish, but taken simply and gratefully as the good gifts of God, all personal charms and accomplishments are to be prized for the use we can make of them in the Lord's service.

This truth, too, is shown—that beauty of character is better than beauty of person. There were many fair maidens in the palace of Shushan, but there was something in Esther different from the rest. She was not only admired, but she "pleased" the king, and the king's servants, and "all them that looked upon her." We are not told why, but we can guess from those characteristics of true womanhood suggested by her conduct. Esther accepted what was given as her portion with dignified contentment, not with the restless, selfish spirit of the others who demanded all they could possibly get. She seems to have had the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price—a spirit which needs to be cultivated in the unduly-aspiring, self-seeking, overambitious fever of society. This quiet mind is not a sign of weakness, but of force. In every act of this charming young woman we see the self forgetful, courageous, tactful, patient spirit which belongs to strong character. It is a stimulating and instructive study; we will take it up again next Sunday. Let us put to practical use this week the lessons thus far learned.

#### Suggestive Questions

1 What guided the king in the selection of Haman? 2 Are such promotions made now? 3 Are men always selected for our public offices because of special fitness for the place? 4 What usually is the basis of such selection? 5 Would it have been wrong for Mordecai to bow the knee and do reverence to Haman? 6 Was it a wise thing for him to refuse to reverence him? 7 How did Mordecai's conduct make Haman feel? 8 What did he propose to do? 9 Why did he not lay hands on Mordecai? 10 How did Mordecai discover the plot against the Jews and himself?

### Church News

#### Harrisonburg, Va.

We are moving along very smoothly here. We are all looking forward for a glorious time when Brother Koontz, of Conemaugh, Pa., comes to preach for us. The date is fixed for Sept. 30th. He will preach for us two weeks,

We will have our communion Saturday evening, Oct. 7. All who can are invited to attend. The second Sunday in October we will have what the Virginians call an all day service. Preaching at 10:30 A. M. Dinner at church. At 1:30 P. M. the Sunday-school will have a children's service. At 7:30 P. M. preaching.

We are sad to hear of the illness of brother George A. Copp and hope for his speedy recovery. Brother Copp was pastor here for

at least two years and won the admiration and respect of the congregation and all who attended his meetings. Our work in West Virginia is moving along very nicely. We hope to visit these faithful little bands again in November. With much interest in the Brethren cause I remain. JOS. I. HALL.

#### Philadelphia, Pa.

Baptized one Sunday night after returning home from convention, a promising young man. Also baptized a woman last Wednesday night. She was formerly a Methodist; several years ago she accepted the more abundant life, since that time she has been searching the Scriptures and has decided that the Brethren church is the place to enjoy full salvation. Also received two applications by letter: man and wife. They have not been voted in yet but as we have known them well for years and coming to us with good letters we know that we will receive them by a unanimous vote. Hence four more added to our church here. We could add many more to the church than we do, but we are learning more and more the necessity of urging fruits of repentance. Our work suffered much here by not getting men and women to fully count the cost before coming. This was a failing before I came here and since. We find after much care many will still be snared by the adversary. We have everything imaginable to deceive and lead away here. The very elect are in great danger. Brethren pray much for our work here.

Our work seems to be in better condition than it has ever been for practical work. Next Monday night we expect to re-elect officers for our Young People's Society of the Brethren Church of Philadelphia. This society has been running for over four years. It meets every Monday night the year round, rain or shine, hot or cold. It is a cottage meeting. We have camp stools and hymn-books and a banner to hang in the window. We average from twenty to twenty five the year around. We go to unconverted homes and homes where they cannot attend the services of the Lord and sing, pray and study the word. We take a book of the Bible at a time and take a lesson of from ten to fifteen verses each lesson and go thru the book. We find it very helpful. We also have two C. E. of K. C. societies, Junior and Senior. Both meet on Sunday at 7 P. M. We will elect officers for our Juniors October 1. We need your prayers for our Juniors. We have the brightest outlook we have ever had but we have not been as successful with our young people as we should have been. We are determined by God's help and your prayers to improve along this line. We have found it a great task to have something for all to do and have it so organized that they will do it. I hope the President, Brother Furry, will give us good practical information along this line this year. We need it.

Would love to write about our good conference but I will have to defer that for another time. Let us live pure, holy lives and exalt Jesus more. I. D. BOWMAN.

Program of the Sub-district Meeting of the Brethren Churches of Southwest Va., Friday, Oct. 6, 1899, will Convene at 2 p. m. at Bethany Meeting House

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Meeting called to order by D. C. Moomaw, moderator of the D. M. of '98.

Song, Scripture reading and prayer.

Address of Welcome, by D. C. Moomaw.

Responses by J. W. Pursely, J. S. Bowman, Jesse Gillespie.

Appointment of committees:

On Credentials: Eld. James Lane, Jesse Gillespie, Wm. Spangler.

On Rules: J. S. Bowman, J. W. Pursely, Gillespie the elder.

On Organization: C. G. Nininger, D. C. Moomaw, Nathan Nininger.

On Entertainment: Mrs. Edward Nininger, Mrs. Nathan Nininger, Susie Moomaw.

Scriptural Method of Raising Money to Support the Evangelistic Work, J. S. Bowman, D. C. Moomaw.

Song.

Best Methods of Building up Churches in Southwest Virginia, J. W. Gillespie, Sen., J. W. Pursely.

Song.

Queries, prayer, adjournment.

Preaching, 8 P. M., J. W. Pursely.

#### SATURDAY 9 A. M.

Song and prayer.

Report of the District Evangelist.

Song.

Reports of the preachers from the churches.

Song.

Report of the secretary of Mission Board.

What is Sanctification? C. Nininger, Wm. Spangler.

Song, queries, refreshments.

#### EVENING SESSION

Song.

What do the Scriptures Teach on the Subject of Ordination of Church Officers, D. C. Moomaw, J. S. Bowman.

Song.

What is the Best Course to Pursue in Conducting Church Meetings? J. W. Pursely, Thomas Wood.

Song.

What is the Mission of the Progressive Brethren Church?

Song.

Memorial to the District Conference of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

Song, queries, adjournment.

#### 6 P. M.

Commencement of communion service.

#### SUNDAY MORNING

10 A. M., Sunday school.

11 A. M., Preaching by Eld. Thomas Wood, of Pittsylvania.

### Matrimonial

STRADNER—HOFF.—On Sept. 17, 1899, at the home of Mr. George Flickinger Mr. William D. Stradner of Birdo, Ill., and Miss Ida M. Hoff of Sterling, Ohio, were married by the undersigned.

WM KIEFER.